

Serial No. 09/147,405

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 31 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer with respect to the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend the below claims as follows:

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1. (Six times amended) A purified *Staphylococcus epidermidis* protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, or a polypeptide having fibrinogen binding activity and having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.

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8. (Twice amended) Recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 2, wherein said DNA molecule contains SEQ ID NO:12 which is:

IC

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1   TCTAGTGATGAAGAAAAGAATGATGTGATCAATAATAATCAGTCAATAAA
51  CACCGACGATAATAACCAAATAATTAAAAAAGAAGAAACGAATAACTACG
101 ATGGCATAGAAAAACGCTCAGAAGATAGAACAGAGTCAACAACAAATGTA
151 GATGAAAACGAAGCAACATTTTTACAAAAGACCCCTCAAGATAATACTCA
201 TCTTACAGAAGAAGAGGTAAAAGAATCCTCATCAGTCGAATCCTCAAATT
251 CATCAATTGATACTGCCCAACAACCATCTCACACAACAATAAATAGAGAA
301 GAATCTGTTCAAACAAGTGATAATGTAGAAGATTCACACGTATCAGATTT
351 TGCTAACTCTAAAATAAAAGAGAGTAACACTGAATCTGGTAAAGAAGAGA
401 ATACTATAGAGCAACCTAATAAAGTAAAAGAAGATTCAACAACAAGTCAG
451 CCGTCTGGCTATACAAATATAGATGAAAAAATTTCAAATCAAGATGAGTT
501 ATTAAATTTACCAATAAATGAATATGAAAATAAGGCTAGACCATTATCTA
551 CAACATCTGCCCAACCATCGATTAAACGTGTAACCGTAAATCAATTAGCG
601 GCGGAACAAGGTTTGAATGTTAACCATTTAATTAAAGTTACTGATCAAAG
651 TATTACTGAAGGATATGATGATAGTGAAGGTGTTATTAAAGCACATGATG
701 CTGAAAACCTTAATCTATGATGTAACCTTTGAAGTAGATGATAAGGTGAAA
751 TCTGGTGATACGATGACAGTGGATATAGATAAGAATACAGTTCCATCAGA
801 TTTAACCGATAGCTTTACAATACCAAAAATAAAAGATAATTCTGGAGAAA
851 TCATCGCTACAGGTACTTATGATAACAAAATAAAACAATCACCTATACT
901 TTTACAGATTATGTAGATAAGTATGAAAATATTAAAGCACACCTTAAATT
951 AACGTCATACATTGATAAATCAAAGGTTCCAAATAATAATACCAAGTTAG
1001 ATGTAGAATATAAAACGGCCCTTTCATCAGTAAATAAAACAATTACGGTT
1051 GAATATCAAAGACCTAACGAAAATCGGACTGCTAACCTTCAAAGTATGTT
1101 TACAAATATAGATACGAAAAATCATAACAGTTGAGCAAACGATTTATATTA
1151 ACCCTCTTCGTTATTCAGCCAAGGAAACAAATGTAAATATTTTCAGGGAAT
1201 GGTGATGAAGGTTCAACAATTATAGACGATAGCACAATAATTAAAGTTTA
1251 TAAGGTGGGAGATAATCAAAATTTACCAGATAGTAACAGAATTTATGATT
1301 ACAGTGAATATGAAGATGTCACAAATGATGATTATGCCCAATTAGGAAAT
1351 AATAATGATGTGAATATTAATTTTGGTAATATAGATTCACCATATATTAT
1401 TAAAGTTATTAGTAAATATGACCCTAATAAGGATGATTACACGACTATAC
1451 AGCAAACGTGTGACAATGCAGACGACTATAAATGAGTATACTGGTGAGTTT
1501 AGAACAGCATCCTATGATAATACAATTGCTTTCTCTACAAGTTCAGGTCA
1551 AGGACAAGGTGACTTGCCCTCTGAAAAAACTTATAAAATCGGAGATTACG
1601 TATGGGAAGATGTAGATAAAGATGGTATTCAAAATACAAATGATAATGAA
1651 AAACCGCTTAGTAATGTATTGGTAAGTTTGACGTATCCTGATGGAACCTC
1701 AAAATCAGTCAGAACAGATGAAGATGGGAAATATCAATTTGATGGA
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or homologues thereof.

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9. (Twice amended) Recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 2, wherein said DNA molecule encodes amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 which is:

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1  SSDEEKNDVINNNQSINTDDNNQIIKKEET
31  NNYDGIEKRSEDRTSTTNVDENEATFLQK
61  TPQDNTHLTEEEVKESSSVESSNSSIDTAQ
91  QPSHTTINREESVQTSNVEDSHVSDFANS
121 KIKESNTESGKEENTIEQPNKVKEDSTTSQ
151 PSGYTNIDEKISNQDELLNLPINEYENKAR
181 PLSTTSAQPSIKRVTVNQLAAEQGSNVNHL
211 IKVTDQSITGEYDDSEGVKAHDAENLIYD
241 VTFEVDDKVKSGDTMTVDIDKNTVPSDLTD
271 SFTIPKIKDNSGEIIATGTYDNKNKQITYT
301 FTDYVDKYENIKAHLKLTSYIDKSKVPNNN
331 TKLDVEYKTALSSVNKTITVEYQRPNENRT
361 ANLQSMFTNIDTKNHTVEQTIYINPLRYSA
391 KETNVNISGNGDEGSTIIDDSTIIKVYKVG
421 DNQNLPSNRIYDYSEYEDVTNDDYAQLGN
451 NNDVNINFGNIDSPYIIKVISKYDPNKDDY
481 TTIQQTVTMQTTINEYTGEFRTASYDNTIA
511 FSTSSGQGQGDLPPEKTYKIGDYVWEDVDK
541 DGIQNTNDNEKPLSNVLVTLTYPDGTSKSV
571 RTDEDGKYQFDG
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25. (Four times amended) A vaccine composition including the protein or polypeptide according to claim 1.

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30. (Amended) A fusion protein comprising the protein or polypeptide according to claim 1.